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IN THE

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER TERM, 1976

No.

76-7807

JENNA PAULINE KELSIE,

Petitioner,

v.

STATE OF INDIANA,

Respondent.

PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI

To the Supreme Court of Indiana

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PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI
To the Supreme Court of Indiana

TO THE HONORABLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE
AND THE ASSOCIATE JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME
COURT OF THE UNITED STATES:

The petitioner, Jenna Pauline Kelsie, respectfully
prays that a writ of certiorari issue to review the judgment
and opinion of the Supreme Court of Indiana entered in
this proceeding on September 21, 1976.

OPINION BELOW

The opinion of the Supreme Court of Indiana,
reported at 354 N.E. 2d 219, appears in Appendix A

hereto. A timely petition for rehearing was filed and thereafter denied by the Supreme Court of Indiana in an unreported order on November 1, 1976. (See Appendix B)

JURISDICTION

The judgment of the Supreme Court of Indiana was entered on September 21, 1976. A petition for rehearing was denied on November 1, 1976. This petition for certiorari was filed within ninety (90) days of either of those dates. This Court's jurisdiction is invoked under 28 U.S.C. §1257 (3).

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Does the utilization of a special prosecutor, who has a personal and pecuniary interest in the prosecution, offend the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States?

2. Was petitioner denied Due Process of Law as guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States by being prosecuted by an attorney, in a criminal court, who was not the elected prosecutor, who had a pecuniary interest in the prosecution of the cause, and who had been consulted and employed by the heirs and family of the decedent?

3. Was the petitioner denied Due Process of Law as guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States by being prosecuted in a criminal court by an attorney, who was not the prosecuting attorney, which attorney was biased and prejudiced against the petitioner, and which attorney had a personal, pecuniary interest in the prosecution of the cause?

4. Was the petitioner denied Due Process of Law

as guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States in that the court permitted an attorney to participate in the trial as prosecutor where such action was unwarranted and which action denied the petitioner a fair and impartial trial due to the bias and prejudice of said attorney because of his relationship with the decedent's heirs, legatees and family?

CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISION INVOLVED

The following provision of the Constitution of the United States is involved:

Fourteenth Amendment: " * * * nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

STATEMENT OF THE CASE

This is a prosecution of the petitioner for the crime of Second Degree Murder. On October 26, 1976, the respondent filed an indictment against petitioner charging her with this offense. The petitioner pleaded not guilty and requested trial by jury. A "special prosecutor" appeared in the cause to assist the respondent's elected prosecutor. To this action the petitioner filed this *verified* objection:

"The defendant in the above matter objects to the Court's appointment of attorney, Robert Lensing, and the participation of this cause by said attorney, Robert Lensing for the following reasons, to-wit:

1. That said Robert Lensing is not a duly qualified elected or appointed prosecuting attorney, nor a deputy prosecutor of Warrick

County, State of Indiana.

2. That said Robert Lensing has a pecuniary interest in the prosecution of this cause, in that, he has been consulted and employed by the heirs and family of said decedent, Dale Leon Graham.

3. That said Robert Lensing is biased and prejudiced against this defendant and has a personal pecuniary interest as to the prosecution of this cause.

4. That the duly elected and qualified prosecuting attorney, Edward Campbell is capable of prosecuting the cause and has a deputy to assist him if needed.

5. That this Court has no authority to authorize employment of additional counsel in the prosecution of this cause.

6. That by permitting said Robert Lensing participating in this trial is unwarranted and *would be denying the defendant herein a fair and impartial trial* because of the bias and prejudice of said Robert Lensing, and his relationship with the decedent's heirs, legatees and family.

WHEREFORE, the defendant objects to said Robert Lensing participating in the prosecution of this cause for the above and foregoing reasons, *all of which she now offers to prove.*" (Emphasis supplied)

(N.B.: It is petitioner's position that this is the manner in, and the time at, which she first raised the federal question herein. She argues that the exact words

from the Federal Constitution are not necessary to preserve the question and are often even superfluous. The words which are emphasize above, by any objective reading, demonstrate a denial of Due Process guaranteed by the Federal Fourteenth Amendment. This Court in the case of *Green Bay & M. Canal Co. v. Patten Paper Co.*, 172 U.S. 58, 68, 19 S.Ct. 97, 43 L.Ed. 364, 368 (1898) has said:

"* * * no particular form of words or phrases has ever been declared necessary in which the claim of Federal rights must be asserted. * * *"

In another context, the case of *Brown v. Mississippi*, 297 U.S. 278, 56 S.Ct. 461, 80 L.Ed. 682 (1936), holds:

"* * * The conviction and sentence were void for want of the essential elements of due process, and the proceedings thus vitiated could be challenged in any appropriate manner. * * *"

There is other authority favoring petitioner on the question of preservation of the federal question. This Court, in the case of *Hormel v. Helvering*, 312 U.S. 552, 558, 61 S.Ct. 719, 85 L.Ed. 1037, 1041 (1941), said:

"* * * There may always be exceptional cases or particular circumstances which will prompt a reviewing or appellate court, where injustice might otherwise result, to consider questions of law which were neither pressed nor passed upon by the court or administrative agency below. See *Blair v. Oesterlein Mach. Co.* 275 US 220, 225, 72 L ed 249, 252, 48 S Ct 87.

Rules of practice and procedure are devised to promote the ends of justice, not

to defeat them. A rigid and undeviating judicially declared practice under which courts of review would invariably and under all circumstances decline to consider all questions which had not previously been specifically urged would be out of harmony with this policy. Orderly rules of procedure do not require sacrifice of the rules of fundamental justice. * * *

The dissenting opinion in the Supreme Court of Indiana graphically demonstrates the injustice that has occurred here.)

The court summarily, without granting a hearing thereon, overruled the above objections.

The Court further compounded this error by entering an order *in limine* prohibiting the petitioner from in any way referring to the interested status of the special prosecutor during argument of the case to the jury.

Trial thereafter commenced to a jury. The Supreme Court of Indiana stated:

"The evidence at trial revealed that on the early evening of October 5, 1973, the Appellant drove to Boonville, Indiana from her home in Evansville. She had divorced the decedent about a week before, having been separated from him since July of 1973. The Appellant testified that she drove to Boonville to see if she had received any mail there and then decided to see a friend. While in Boonville, the Appellant went to a tavern and had some drinks with friends. While entering the tavern, she noticed that her ex-husband was in another bar next door. During the course of the night, the Appellant asked a friend to go and tell the decedent to join them. She opened her purse and displayed to him an automatic pistol, saying she was 'aimin' to

kill the son-of-a-bitch.' The friend did not think that the statement was made seriously.

The decedent subsequently joined the Appellant and her companions. At about 1:00 a.m., October 6, 1973, he left the tavern, following two women with whom he was acquainted. He was talking to one of them when the Appellant also came out of the tavern. An argument ensued between the three persons which developed into a loud exchange of swearing, obscenities and name-calling. The Appellant, standing by her automobile parked nearby, was seen holding a gun in her hand.

The argument ended when the decedent's two female friends left and the decedent returned to the tavern in which he had started his evening. At approximately 1:20 a. m. the Appellant began honking the horn of her car. The decedent was told that 'one of your women is wantin' you out there or honkin for you.' He went outside and was seen getting into the passenger side of the Appellant's automobile. A scuffle then took place in the car and three shots were heard. The Appellant was identified as the woman behind the steering wheel. She admitted shooting the decedent, asserting that it was in self-defense. (Majority opinion, 354 N.E. 2d at 221) * * *

(In its opinion, the majority does not set out any of the substantial evidence of self-defense which was in the record, much of which was corroborated or not contested.) The decedent had severely beaten appellant around the eyes and the face and had bitten

her on the upper arm in the few minutes of struggle before she shot him. (Parentheses supplied)

When appellant honked for the decedent to come out, she talked to him through the window. Then he asked her to lower the car window, and he unlocked the door and got in. They talked about a minute or two and then began wrestling. Decedent had appellant in a headlock and was hitting up at her. She yelled out for him to stop five or six times, then reached around, got hold of her gun and shot him.

The decedent was 5'11" and weighed 185 pounds. He had a long history of terrible violence. Different witnesses testified to his acts toward them or in their presence. A former wife, who had tried repeatedly to get him to seek medical help, testified that he bit a chunk out of one daughter's arm, beat her son with a pair of steel-toed boots so severely that she had to take the child to the doctor for his kidneys, and struck her other daughter with a belt until the blood was pouring out. She stated that the decedent did these things for no apparent reason at all. He also chased after an old man with a chain saw. He stomped his wife with the heels of his boots. 'He'd be in a good mood one minute and then all of a sudden, watch out. He just snapped,' she testified. When this former wife heard that decedent and appellant were having marital difficulties, she began carrying brass knuckles, because she knew decedent would start coming around and bothering her and her children and she was scared of him.

One of the decedent's good friends had a small argument with him. They were in a car together and decided to fight for fun. They got out and started fighting, and decedent kicked him with his cowboy boots. He broke the friend's nose. The friend admitted that Dale might just fly off the handle.

Appellant herself had experienced decedent's violent acts. On one occasion, she had arranged to meet Dale at a friend's house. When he arrived, he started beating her, pulling her hair, and hitting her in the face. He threw her on the couch and placed his foot on her stomach, with his steel toed boots on. He told her he was going to stomp her guts out. Her girlfriend reminded him that appellant had just had surgery and that he could hurt her bad, so he confined himself to spitting in her face and hitting her and then wanted her to go and have dinner with him. Since he had torn off her clothes and under garments, blacked her eye, and bruised her arms, she refused.

On another occasion, during the separation, a month before the crime, appellant was driving out to their house, where she was living, when she met decedent in his truck. She told him that she needed water at the house. He got furious. He pulled off his boot and hit the top of the car where she was sitting. He reached through the window, grabbed her sunglasses off her face, and twisted them and threw them on the ground and stomped on them. She drove off and he followed her. Dale passed her and blocked her way. He got out of his truck and walked back toward her car. She

backed up to try to get away from him. He into her car, pushing all but one side of the front into a ditch. He then got out and came back to her car with a two or three foot long iron bar and began beating the car all over. He jumped on the hood and crouched down and held the bar up as if he were going to poke the bar through the window at appellant. She begged him to please quit, then fell back against the seat almost passing out. Then he jumped off and left.

On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday before the crime on Friday, decedent had left letters at appellant's door. They were entered in evidence. The third letter began by reciting decedent's love for appellant but ended by threatening the life of a man he thought she was seeing. 'You don't no how close he came to ben shoot between his eyes. . . . And I will not miss the next time. . . .'" (Dissenting opinion, 354 N.E. 2d at 228)

Before the jury returned its verdict, petitioner objected to the court, and not the jury, fixing her punishment.

The Court over ruled these objections and the jury returned a verdict of guilty of Second Degree Murder but did not fix the penalty. Before the court pronounced its judgment, the petitioner objected to the court doing so. These objections were likewise overruled and the court pronounced judgment, sentencing the petitioner to a term of imprisonment of not less than fifteen (15) nor more than twenty-five (25) years. Petitioner filed a motion to correct errors which the court overruled, and thereafter she prosecuted an appeal to the Indiana Supreme Court, with the aforesaid results.

REASONS FOR GRANTING THE WRIT

The Indiana State Court has rendered a Federal Question of Substance not in accord with the applicable decisions of this Court.

Petitioner challenges the action of the "special prosecutor" who took the lead in securing her conviction. The petitioner's verified objections to the appointment of the special prosecutor were not contradicted nor denied on the record. Nevertheless, the court overruled them summarily, without granting petitioner the chance to prove them, although she had prayed for such a chance. This Court, in *Anderson Nat. Bank v. Lueckett*, 321 U.S. 233, 64 S.Ct. 599, 88 L.Ed. 692 (1944) held that,

"* * * The fundamental requirement of due process is an opportunity to be heard upon such notice and proceedings as are adequate to safeguard the right for which the constitutional protection is invoked. * * *

Be that as it may, this Court in *Lambert v. California*, 355 U.S. 225, 228, 78 S.Ct. 240, 242, 2 L.Ed. 2d 228, 231, reh. den., 355 U.S. 937, 78 S.Ct. 410, 2 L.Ed. 2d 419 held:

"We must assume that appellant had no actual knowledge of the requirement that she register under this ordinance, as she offered proof of this defense which was refused. * * *

In Indiana if such a verified pleading or device is uncontradicted or not otherwise discredited verity is imported thereto. *Siebeking et al. v. Ford*, 125 Ind. App. 365, 371, 122 N.E. 2d 880, 52 A.L.R. 2d 177 (1954); *Wasy v. State*, 236 Ind. 215, 138 N.E. 2d 1, reh. den. 236 Ind. 220, 221-222, 139 N.E. 2d 438 (1956).

We thus turn to the substantive question, and the applicable Indiana law regarding special prosecutors.

A relevant Indiana Statute, IC 1971, 33-14-1-5 (Ind. Ann. Stat. §49-2905) provides that a judge can appoint a (special) prosecutor only if the prosecutor fails to attend court. If an Indiana prosecutor fails to perform his duties, the remedy is to impeach him, or if he is an interested party or otherwise incapacitated, only then may a special prosecutor be appointed. *State ex rel. Spencer v. Criminal Court of Marion County*, 214 Ind. 551, 15 N.E. 2d 1020 (1938). The statutory compensation for an Indiana prosecutor is in full for all of his services. IC 1971, 33-14-7-20. (Ind. Ann. Stat. §49-2619)

None of the acceptable Indiana reasons for appointment of a special prosecutor avail here. We have here a lawyer hired by the relatives of the deceased victim, apparently a vengeance seeker, a mercenary or "hired gun." Does such a mercenary have a role in twentieth-century criminal justice? In the case of *Berger v. United States*, 295 U.S. 78, 55 S.Ct. 629, 633, 79 L.Ed. 1314 (1935), this Court said:

"The United States Attorney is the representative not of an ordinary party to a controversy, but of a sovereignty whose obligation to govern impartially is as compelling as its obligation to govern at all; and whose interest, therefore, in a criminal prosecution is not that it shall win a case, but that justice shall be done. As such, he is in a peculiar and very definite sense the servant of the law, the twofold aim of which is that guilt shall not escape or innocence suffer. * * *

From the dissenting opinion we quote:

"The American Bar Association's *Standards Relating to the Prosecution Function* provide:

'The duty of the prosecutor is to seek justice, not merely to convict.' §1.1 (c) (1971 Approved Draft).

The commentary to this section states:

'Although the prosecutor operates within the adversary system, it is fundamental that his obligation is to protect the innocent as well as convict the guilty, to guard the rights of the accused as well as to enforce the rights of the public.' Com. to §1.1 at p. 44." 354 N.E. 2d at 227.

The general common law of this country is to this same effect: 63 Am. Jur. 2d, *Prosecuting Attorneys*, § 27, p. 355; 27 C.J.S., *District & Prosecuting Attorneys*, § 14 (1), p. 674; *Palmer v. State*, Ind. App. , 288 N.E. 2d 739 (1972). A recent well-reasoned case which comprehensively discusses the subject of the mercenary prosecutor is *Missouri v. Harrington*, Mo. , 534 S.W. 2d 44 (1976).

In a closely analogous case, *Ganger v. Peyton*, 379 F.2d 709 (4 Cir. 1967) the court said:

"* * * The district court found that the state prosecuting attorney represented Ganger's wife in the prosecution of a divorce action which was pending at the time of the criminal trial and was based upon the same alleged assault on Mrs. Ganger. * * *

"At common law, a prosecuting attorney 'is the representative of the public in whom is lodged a discretion * * * which is not to be controlled by the courts or by an interested individual * * *.'"

"* * *

"We think the conduct of this prosecuting attorney in attempting at once to serve two masters, the people of the Commonwealth and the wife of Ganger, violates the requirement of fundamental fairness assured by the due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. *Mooney v. Holohan*, 294 U.S. 103, 55 S.Ct. 340, 79 L.Ed. 791 (1935); * * *

That case goes on to lead us to our most telling point:

"The prosecuting attorney is an officer of the court, holding a quasi judicial position. '[H] is primary responsibility is essentially judicial—the prosecution of the guilty and the protection of the innocent, *Griffin v. United States*, 295 F. 437, 439-440 (C.A. 3, 1924); * * *'" *Id.* at 714.

This most telling point is established in *Tumey v. Ohio*, 273 U.S. 510, 522, 47 S.Ct. 437, 441, 71 L.Ed. 749 (1927):

"That officers acting in a judicial or quasi judicial capacity are disqualified by their interest in the controversy to be decided is of course the general rule. * * * [It] certainly violates the Fourteenth Amendment and deprives a defendant in a criminal case of due process of law to subject his liberty or property to the judgment of a court, the judge of which has a direct, personal, substantial pecuniary interest in reaching a conclusion against him in his case." (Emphasis supplied)

There is other, general authority to the effect that a prosecutor is limited to his statutory compensation, 63 Am. Jur. 2d, *Prosecuting Attorneys*, §18, p. 347, and

that if he receives additional compensation from private persons, or is otherwise financially interested in a criminal prosecution, he is disqualified to prosecute: *State v. Kent*, 4 N.D. 577, 62 N.W. (1895), *Coggeshall v. Conner*, 31 Okla. 113, 120 P. 559 (1912), *State v. Basham*, S.D. , 170 N.W. 2d 238 (1969).

The special prosecutor took the dominant role in the trial of the charge against petitioner. He examined ten out of the seventeen State's witnesses, cross-examined two out of four defense witnesses, made the objections during the petitioner's examination of fourteen witnesses, as well as handling other important aspects of the prosecution.

(There is an ancillary aspect to this issue—the only record concerning the status of the special prosecutor follows:

"Comes now Robert W. Lensing and appears of counsel for the State of Indiana."

Contrary to the majority opinion of the Indiana Supreme Court, there is no record showing "that this attorney worked with and under the supervision of the Warrick County Prosecutor, who was present at all stages of the proceedings." There is nothing in the record to show that the elected prosecutor requested the appointment of the special prosecutor, nor that the court in fact appointed him for any purpose.)

This Court has held that "the action of prosecuting officers on behalf of the state, * * * may constitute state action within the purview of the Fourteenth Amendment." *Mooney v. Holohan*, 294 U.S. 103, 113, 55 S.Ct. 340, 342, 79 L.Ed. 791 (1935).

CONCLUSION

For these reasons, a writ of certiorari should issue to review the judgment and opinion of the Indiana Supreme Court.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

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APPENDIX A

Opinion and Judgment of the Indiana Supreme Court
(Filed September 21, 1976, Billie R. McCullough,
Clerk of the Indiana Supreme and Court of Appeals)

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IN THE

SUPREME COURT OF INDIANA

JENNA PAULINE KELSIE,)	
)	
Appellant,)	
)	
v.)	No. 1274 S 241
)	
STATE OF INDIANA,)	
)	
Appellee.)	

APPEAL FROM WARRICK CIRCUIT COURT
The Honorable Addison M. Beavers, Judge

ARTERBURN, J.

On May 21, 1974, the Appellant, Jenna Pauline

Kelsie, was found guilty of the second degree murder of Dale Leon Graham. The jury returned its verdict without stating the sentence to be imposed. On June 7, 1974, the trial judge sentenced the Appellant to imprisonment for a period of not less than fifteen nor more than twenty-five years. A motion to correct errors was filed on July 31, 1974. Arguments were heard on the motion and on August 26, 1974, the trial court took the matter under advisement. The motion was overruled on September 23, 1974.

I.

In order to set out the facts of this case, we consider first the contentions of the Appellant regarding the sufficiency of the evidence. It is asserted that the verdict is not supported by sufficient evidence upon all the necessary elements of the crime charged, second degree murder. It is also contended that the verdict is contrary to law because "the evidence did not negate the elements of self-defense by substantial evidence of probative value."

It is well-established that this court, in determining the sufficiency of evidence, does not judge the credibility of witnesses or weigh evidence. We look at the evidence most favorable to the State and the reasonable inferences to be drawn from that evidence. A verdict will not be disturbed if there is substantial evidence of probative value from which the trier of fact could reasonably infer that the defendant was guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. *Young v. State*, (1975) Ind. , 332 N.E. 2d 103; *Blackburn v. State*, (1973) 260 Ind. 5, 291 N.E. 2d 686; *Jackson v. State*, (1971) 257 Ind. 477, 275 N.E. 2d 538.

The evidence at trial revealed that on the early evening of October 5, 1973, the Appellant drove to Boonville, Indiana from her home in Evansville. She had divorced the decedent about a week before, having been separated from him since July of 1973. The Appellant testified that she drove to Boonville to see if she had received any mail there and then decided to see a friend.

While in Boonville, the Appellant went to a tavern and had some drinks with friends. While entering the tavern, she noticed that her ex-husband was in another bar next door. During the course of the night, the Appellant asked a friend to go and tell the decedent to join them. She opened her purse and displayed to him an automatic pistol, saying she was "aimin' to kill the son-of-a-bitch." The friend did not think that the statement was made seriously.

The decedent subsequently joined the Appellant and her companions. At about 1:00 a.m., October 6, 1973, he left the tavern, following two women with whom he was acquainted. He was talking to one of them when the Appellant also came out of the tavern. An argument ensued between the three persons which developed into a loud exchange of swearing, obscenities and name-calling. The Appellant, standing by her automobile parked nearby, was seen holding a gun in her hand.

The argument ended when the decedent's two female friends left and the decedent returned to the tavern in which he had started his evening. At approximately 1:20 a.m. the Appellant began honking the horn of her car. The decedent was told that "one of your women is wantin' you out there or honkin for you." He went outside and was seen getting into the passenger side of the Appellant's automobile. A scuffle then took place in the car and three shots were heard. The Appellant was identified as the woman behind the steering wheel. She admitted shooting the decedent, asserting that it was in self-defense.

The Appellant's sufficiency argument consists largely of a summary of testimony which, it is asserted, "conclusively shows that said defendant shot the decedent in self-defense." This asks us to weigh the evidence and judge the credibility of witnesses, which we cannot do. We think that the evidence was sufficient to establish that the Appellant killed the decedent with purpose and malice and thus committed second degree murder. Ind. Code § 35-1-54-1 (Burns 1975). The deliberate use of a deadly

weapon in a manner likely to cause death or great bodily harm permits an inference that the defendant was acting with malice and purpose. *White v. State*, (1976) Ind.

, 349 N.E. 2d 156. It is the province of the jury to determine the credibility of witnesses and to determine whether it will believe all, none, or any part of a witness's testimony, and the determination of whether a homicidal act was carried out in self-defense is an ultimate fact to be decided by the jury. *Swift v. State*, (1961) 242 Ind. 87, 176 N.E. 2d 117. Put simply, the jury was not required to believe the Appellant's claim of self-defense. We find no error here.

II.

The Appellant also asserts that the trial court erred in overruling motions to strike parts of the indictment and to dismiss the indictment. The indictment in this case read as follows:

"The Grand Jurors of Warrick County, in the State of Indiana, good and lawful persons, duly and legally impaneled, charged and sworn to inquire into felonies, and certain misdemeanors, in and for the body of said County of Warrick in the name and by the authority of the State of Indiana, on their oaths present that JENNA PAULINE KELSIE, on the 6th day of October, 1973, at Warrick County, in the State of Indiana, did then and there unlawfully, feloniously, purposely, and maliciously, but without premeditation, kill and murder one DALE LEON GRAHAM, her former husband, a human being, by then and there unlawfully, feloniously, purposely, and maliciously, but without premeditation, shooting at and against the said DALE LEON GRAHAM, with a certain pistol, loaded and charged with gunpowder

and bullets, thereby mortally wounding the said DALE LEON GRAHAM with one or more of said bullets, discharged and shot as aforesaid, said shooting having occurred in the front seat of a parked automobile which was in the possession of the said JENNA PAULINE KELSIE and was located at the time of said shooting in a public parking place in front of Kenny's Tavern located at 118 South Third Street, Boonville, Warrick County, Indiana, from which mortal wound the said DALE LEON GRAHAM died shortly thereafter on said 6th day of October, 1973. And so the Grand Jurors aforesaid, upon their oaths, do present and charge that the said JENNA PAULINE KELSIE did unlawfully, feloniously, purposely, and maliciously, but without premeditation, kill and murder the said Dale Leon Graham in the manner and form aforesaid, contrary to the form of the statute in such cases made and provided, and against the peace and dignity of the State of Indiana."

The Appellant's motion to strike parts of the indictment sought to strike the following: "and murder"; "her former husband"; "at and against"; "with one or more of said bullets"; and "said shooting having occurred in the front seat of a parked automobile which was in the possession of said Jenna Pauline Kelsie and was located at the time of said shooting in a parking place in front of Kenny's Tavern located at 118 South Third Street, Boonville, Warrick County, Indiana." The trial court subsequently struck from the indictment the words "her former husband." The motion was overruled in respect to the other wording challenged.

The Appellant contends that the words so permitted by the trial court are "surplusage and detrimental to the accused and wholly foreign and prejudicial." This con-

tention is based upon language contained in *Chambers v. State*, (1937) 212 Ind. 667 at 670, 10 N.E. 2d 735 at 736: "This court on several occasions has held that an indictment or affidavit is not subject to a motion to quash because it contains evidentiary matters; that such matters will be treated as surplusage and are not prejudicial to the rights of the defendant, unless they are wholly foreign to the subject-matter of the indictment or affidavit." While the Appellant's contention arises out of a different context in terms of procedure (a "motion to strike" as opposed to a motion to quash) and in terms of statutory basis (the statutes regarding indictments have been amended since *Chambers*), we think that the controlling principle here remains. We can find no reversible error if the Appellant was not prejudiced. *Cf. Doss v. State*, (1971) 256 Ind. 174, 267 N.E. 2d 385. The language complained of here is not of the character sufficient to render the indictment defective and we can find no error in the overruling of the Appellant's motion to strike.

The Appellant's motion to dismiss the indictment asserted that the alleged crime was not stated with sufficient certainty and that the facts stated in the indictment did not constitute a crime. The crime of second degree murder is defined as "[w]hoever, purposely and maliciously, but without premeditation, kills any human being. . . ." Ind. Code § 35-1-54-1 (Burns 1975). A simple reading of the indictment indicates that the facts were stated with sufficient certainty and constituted a crime under the statutory definition. The Appellant's supporting arguments are equally unpersuasive. It is contended that the indictment failed to allege the exact time of the crime. The indictment need only state the time of the crime "with sufficient particularity to show that the offense was committed within the statute of limitations." Ind. Code § 35-3.1-1-2 (Burns 1975). Time of death is not of the essence in a case of murder. *Buchanan v. State*, (1975)

Ind. , 332 N.E. 2d 213. Assertions that language in the indictment was prejudicial merely restates contentions of the Appellant's motion to strike. We find no

language so prejudicial that the indictment should have been dismissed.

III.

Error No. 2 set out in the Appellant's motion to correct errors states that the trial court erred in overruling defense objections to the appointment of a "special prosecutor." We have reviewed the record and find nothing which indicates that a "special prosecutor" was appointed. The relevant orderbook entry reads simply: "Comes now Robert W. Lensing and appears of counsel for the State of Indiana." The record shows that this attorney worked with and under the supervision of the Warrick County prosecutor, who was present at all stages of the proceedings.

The record further reflects that the prosecuting attorney requested that this attorney be permitted to appear for the State, and that the trial court appointed him for that purpose. "The court in a criminal prosecution may allow the prosecuting attorney additional counsel, and assisting counsel may be employed by one interested in the prosecution." 8 I.L.E. *Criminal Law* § 395 at 43 (1971). The trial court did not err here.

IV.

The Appellant also presents the question of whether the trial court erred in refusing to give to the jury Defendant's Instructions Nos. 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12 and 13. We note at the outset that the Appellant tendered thirteen instructions to the trial court, three of which were accepted and given to the jury. A defendant is permitted under our criminal rules to tender only ten instructions, unless the trial court fixes a greater number in a particular case. Ind. R. Cr. P. 8. No error may be predicated upon the refusal to give instructions in excess of the number permitted under the rule. *Buchanan v. State*, *supra*. Since the trial court did not exercise its discretion and permit

the tender of more than ten instructions in this case, the Appellant cannot complain of the court's refusal of at least three of his tendered instructions.

More importantly, however, we find that the substance of these tendered instructions was contained in instructions which were given by the trial court. It is not an error to refuse an instruction which is adequately covered by other instructions which are given. *Fuller v. State*, (1973) 261 Ind. 376, 304 N.E. 2d 305. Defendant's Instructions Nos. 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 12 concerned the use of force in self-defense. This was adequately covered by Defendant's Instruction No. 2 and Court's Instructions Nos. 23, 35, 23.33 and 23.33A, which were given to the jury. Defendant's Instructions Nos. 9 and 11 essentially stated that the use of a deadly weapon in self-defense is not evidence of malice. This same principle was covered by Defendant's Instruction No. 10, which the trial court gave. The Appellant apparently argues that since a jury is composed of laymen, repetition is necessary to communicate to it principles of law. We implicitly rejected this proposition in our promulgation of Criminal Rule 8, and have consistently rejected this notion in our opinions. See *Fuller v. State*, supra. The Appellant has not included in his brief any argument or citation regarding Defendant's Instruction No. 13. The issue of whether that instruction was properly refused is thus waived. Ind. R. Ap. P. 8.3 (A) (7); *Green v. State*, (1971) 257 Ind. 244, 274 N.E. 2d 267.

The Appellant also challenges Court's Preliminary Instruction No. 1.13, which was given over defense objection:

"1.13: PROTECTION OF THE INNOCENT

The Rule of law which presumes that the defendant is innocent and which requires proof beyond a reasonable doubt is not intended to allow anyone who is guilty of crime to escape punishment. It is a humane

rule to protect the innocent and to guard, as much as possible, against the danger of convicting a person who is innocent and unjustly accused of crime."

This instruction was but one of several instructions given to the jury on the presumption of innocence and the burden of proof beyond a reasonable doubt. All instructions are to be read together and construed as a whole. *Cockrum v. State*, (1968) 250 Ind. 366, 234 N.E. 2d 479; 8A I.L.E. Criminal Law § 581 (1971). The instruction complained of here is correct and, in the context of the other instructions given, was not so prosecution-oriented that the Appellant can be said to have been prejudiced.

The Appellant's contention that the trial court erred because it did not instruct the jury on the penalty for manslaughter, a lesser included offense of second degree murder, was not put before the trial court in a timely fashion. Since no timely objection to the Court's instructions in this regard was made, and no instruction on the matter was tendered by the Appellant, this issue is not properly before us for consideration. *Mireles v. State*, (1973) 261 Ind. 64, 300 N.E. 2d 350. In a related issue, the Appellant asserts that the form for returning a verdict of guilty of manslaughter provided the jury by the trial court was defective because it did not include a statement of the punishment for the offense. By statute, a verdict of guilty for a felony other than murder or treason is not required to state the punishment. Ind. Code §§ 35-8-2-1-35-8-2-3 (Burns 1975).

V.

We address finally the contentions that the trial court improperly sentenced the Appellant. Specifically, it is asserted that the form of the verdict for second degree murder submitted to the jury was improper because it failed to allow the jury to fix a penalty. It is also asserted that the trial court erred when it, rather than the jury,

sentenced the Appellant. We agree that the trial court erred here. Under the circumstances of this case, however, we think that the error was harmless.

The second degree murder statute, Ind. Code § 35-1-54-1 (Burns 1975), provides for alternative sentences:

"Whoever, purposely and maliciously, but without premeditation, kills any human being, is guilty of murder in the second degree, and, on conviction, shall be imprisoned in the state prison during life, or shall be imprisoned in the state prison not less than fifteen nor more than twenty-five years."

Ind. Code § 35-8-2-1 (Burns 1975) provides for jury sentencing with exceptions:

"When the defendant is found guilty the jury, except in the cases provided for, in the next three [two] sections, must state, in the verdict, the amount of fine and the punishment to be inflicted; where the plea is guilty, or the trial is by the court, the court, subject to the same exception, shall assess the amount of fine and fix the punishment to be inflicted."

Ind. Code § 35-8-2-2 (Burns 1975) and Ind. Code § 35-8-2-3 (Burns 1975) provide the exceptions, convictions for murder or treason. In this case, the statutes clearly require the jury to state the sentence in its verdict. *Brown v. State*, (1969) 252 Ind. 161, 247 N.E. 2d 76. However, the sentence imposed by the court here was the minimum sentence provided for under the second degree murder statute. The Appellant thus suffered no harm. The jury's verdict, as well as the trial court's sentence, should stand.

We recognize that there has been some confusion among the cases on the question here. Some of these cases may be distinguished on the facts, since the sentences im-

posed were greater than the minimum and, obviously, the defendants may have been prejudiced. *Crooks v. State*, (1971) 256 Ind. 72, 267 N.E. 2d 52; *West v. State*, (1950) 228 Ind. 431, 92 N.E. 2d 852; *Limeberry v. State*, (1945) 223 Ind. 622, 63 N.E. 2d 697. In *Lane v. Hobbs*, (1965) 246 Ind. 640, 206 N.E. 2d 182, we relied on Rule 2-40B as a vehicle to correct an erroneous sentence.

In *Kolb v. State*, (1972) 258 Ind. 469, 282 N.E. 2d 541, the contention was made by the defendant, having been tried on two charges, that because the jury had left blank the sentence on the verdict on one charge, the verdict on the charge on which the jury properly fixed a sentence was invalid. We did say that the proper procedure for the court would have been to send the incomplete verdict back to the jury for its completion, which is true, we concluded that "the fact that one verdict is defective does not necessarily mean that the verdict on the other count is automatically reversible." 258 Ind. at 481. However, we think that the more logical reasoning where the Appellant can show no harm or prejudice, is stated in *Palmer v. State*, (1926) 198 Ind. 73 at 77, 152 N.E. 607 at 608:

"The court, after overruling the motion for a *venire de novo*, pronounced sentence on appellant that he be imprisoned in the Indiana State Prison for the determinate period of ten years. As that was the shortest period of time for which the jury lawfully could have found that he should be imprisoned, if he was guilty of the offense charged, appellant was not harmed by the failure of the verdict to fix the punishment, nor by the action of the court in overruling his motion for a *venire de novo*."

Procedural matters as to fixing sentences of the character involved here are not always such that an error therein requires a new trial. This is particularly true where the defendant can show no harm. We have made available

under Post-Conviction Rule, 1, § 1 (a) (3), a remedy for a defendant to have a sentence corrected where he has been harmed.

The judgment of the trial court is affirmed.

GIVAN, C.J., HUNTER, PRENTICE, JJ. CONCUR.

DeBRULER, J. DISSENTS WITH OPINION.

IN THE
SUPREME COURT OF INDIANA

JENNA PAULINE KELSIE,)	
)	
Appellant,)	
)	
v.)	NO. 1274 S 241
)	
STATE OF INDIANA,)	
)	
Appellee.)	

APPEAL FROM WARRICK CIRCUIT COURT

DeBRULER, J. - Dissenting

I.

The majority properly rejects appellant's contention that her conviction should be reversed because a "special prosecutor" was improperly appointed, holding that the record fails to show that Mr. Lensing, the attorney in question, was a special prosecutor. However I believe that if this case were to be retried, the trial court should inquire into the circumstances surrounding Mr. Lensing's appearance before permitting him to appear on behalf of the State.

Appellant has specifically alleged that the private attorney assisting the prosecutor was employed by relatives of the victim to assist in securing appellant's conviction. I feel that this practice, if it occurred in this case constitutes the condoning by the trial court of "private prosecutors," which practice should not be permitted in the prosecution of criminal offenses.

The majority cites the Indiana Law Encyclopedia

for the proposition that a private person interested in the prosecution of an accused may employ counsel who may assist the prosecuting attorney. 8A I.L.E. *Criminal Law* § 395 at p. 43 (1971). The encyclopedia cites the 1890 case of *Keyes v. State*, 122 Ind. 527, 23 N.E. 1097. I feel that this case is inconsistent with modern views on the nature of the duties of the prosecuting attorney.

"In an early day in England private parties prosecuted criminal wrongs which they suffered. They obtained an indictment from a grand jury, and it became the duty and the privilege of the person injured to provide a prosecutor at his own expense to prosecute the indicted person. Our scheme of government has changed all this. It is now deemed the better public policy to provide for the public prosecution of public wrongs without any interference on the part of private parties, although they may have been injured in a private capacity different from the general public injury that accrues to society when a crime is committed. So under our system we have private prosecution for private wrongs and public prosecution for public wrongs. Our scheme contemplates that an impartial man selected by the electors of the county shall prosecute all criminal actions in the county unbiased by the desires of complaining witnesses or that of the defendant." *State v. Peterson*, (1928) 195 Wis. 351, 218 N.W. 367, 369.

The public policy alluded to by the Supreme Court of Wisconsin is no different from that of Indiana. Our statutes provide for the office of a prosecuting attorney for each judicial circuit, Ind. Code § 33-14-1-1, whose duty it is to prosecute criminal actions. Ind. Code §

33-14-1-4. All prosecutions are brought in the name of the State, by the filing of a pleading by the prosecuting attorney. Ind. Code § 35-3.1-1-1 (a) and (b). Only the prosecuting attorney can cause voluntary dismissal of a criminal cause. Ind. Code § 35-3.1-1.13. While in common parlance we speak of individuals aggrieved by a crime "bringing charges" or "dropping charges," our laws actually entrust such powers solely to the elected representative of the public, the prosecuting attorney.

The American Bar Association's *Standards Relating to the Prosecution Function* provide:

"The duty of the prosecutor is to seek justice, not merely to convict." § 1.1 (c) (1971 Approved Draft).

The commentary to this section states:

"Although the prosecutor operates within the adversary system, it is fundamental that his obligation is to protect the innocent as well as convict the guilty, to guard the rights of the accused as well as to enforce the rights of the public." Com. to § 1.1 at p. 44.

Comment to a later section states that participation by a public official "gives greater assurance that the rights of the accused will be respected than when the victim controls the process." Com. to § 2.1 at p. 49.

In Indiana the prosecuting attorney's duties are established in Canon 7 of the Code of Professional Responsibility. EC 7-13 provides that:

"The responsibility of a public prosecutor differs from that of the usual advocate; his duty is to seek justice, not merely to convict."
..."

DR 7-103 of the Code charges the prosecutor with the duties not to institute unfounded charges and to disclose exculpatory evidence to the defendant. Violation of these duties is grounds for disciplinary action.

The foregoing should make clear that under our system the duty of prosecution is vested in a responsible public official whose duty lies to the public and to justice. The responsibility of a private attorney is to his client. EC 5-1, 5-21, 7-1; DR 7-101.

"Conversely, a privately retained attorney owes his client individual allegiance, and once employed he must not act for an interest even slightly adverse to that of his client in the same general matter. Therefore, in view of the ethical and judicial restrictions imposed on the public prosecutor and the generally recognized loyalties of the private advocate, 'private prosecutor' is a contradiction in terms. The high standard of impartiality required of a prosecutor realistically cannot be expected of the private advocate." *Private Prosecution-the Entrenched Anomaly*, 50 N. Car. L.Rev. 1171, 1173 (1972)

For this reason the practice of permitting private attorneys, retained by persons interested in the outcome of a criminal prosecution, to participate in the trial of an accused, should be ended.

"The practice invites error from an excess of zeal which might well be avoided by leaving the conduct of a criminal prosecution entirely in the hands of the elected official upon whom such duty has been placed." *State v. Harrington*, (Mo. 1976) 534 S.W. 2d 44.

II.

In its opinion, the majority does not set out any of the substantial evidence of self-defense which was in the record, much of which was corroborated or not contested. The decedent had severely beaten appellant around the eyes and the face and had bitten her on the upper arm in the few minutes of struggle before she shot him.

When appellant honked for the decedent to come out, she talked to him through the window. Then he asked her to lower the car window, and he unlocked the door and got in. They talked about a minute or two and then began wrestling. Decedent had appellant in a headlock and was hitting up at her. She yelled out for him to stop five or six times, then reached around, got hold of her gun and shot him.

The decedent was 5'11" and weighed 185 pounds. He had a long history of terrible violence. Different witnesses testified to his acts toward them or in their presence. A former wife, who had tried repeatedly to get him to seek medical help, testified that he bit a chunk out of one daughter's arm, beat her son with a pair of steel-toed boots so severely that she had to take the child to the doctor for his kidneys, and struck her other daughter with a belt until the blood was pouring out. She stated that the decedent did these things for no apparent reason at all. He also chased after an old man with a chain saw. He stomped his wife with the heels of his boots. "He'd be in a good mood one minute and then all of a sudden, watch out. He just snapped," she testified. When this former wife heard that decedent and appellant were having marital difficulties, she began carrying brass knuckles, because she knew decedent would start coming around and bothering her and her children and she was scared of him.

One of the decedent's good friends had a small argument with him. They were in a car together and decided to fight for fun. They got out and started fighting, and decedent kicked him with his cowboy boots. He

broke the friend's nose. The friend admitted that Dale might just fly off the handle.

Appellant herself had experienced decedent's violent acts. On one occasion, she had arranged to meet Dale at a friend's house. When he arrived, he started beating her, pulling her hair, and hitting her in the face. He threw her on the couch and placed his foot on her stomach, with his steel toed boots on. He told her he was going to stomp her guts out. Her girlfriend reminded him that appellant had just had surgery and that he could hurt her bad, so he confined himself to spitting in her face and hitting her and then wanted her to go and have dinner with him. Since he had torn off her clothes and under garments, blacked her eye, and bruised her arms, she refused.

On another occasion, during the separation, a month before the crime, appellant was driving out to their house, where she was living, when she met decedent in his truck. She told him that she needed water at the house. He got furious. He pulled off his boot and hit the top of the car where she was sitting. He reached through the window, grabbed her sunglasses off her face, and twisted them and threw them on the ground and stomped on them. She drove off and he followed her. Dale passed her and blocked her way. He got out of his truck and walked back toward her car. She backed up to try to get away from him. He got back in the truck and started backing into her car, pushing all but one side of the front into a ditch. He then got out and came back to her car with a two or three foot long iron bar and began beating the car all over. He jumped on the hood and crouched down and held the bar up as if he were going to poke the bar through the window at appellant. She begged him to please quit, then fell back against the seat almost passing out. Then he jumped off and left.

On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday before the crime on Friday, decedent had left letters at appellant's door. They were entered in evidence. The third letter began by reciting decedent's love for appellant but ended

by threatening the life of a man he thought she was seeing. "You don't no how close he came to ben shoot between his eyes. . . . And I will not miss the next time. . . ."

I set out this evidence in this opinion to make more pointed the self-defense claim made by appellant. The State had the burden of proving that appellant had not acted in self-defense. The State had to show that she did not act without fault; was not in a place where she had a right to be; or was not in real danger of death or great bodily harm or could not have perceived herself as being in such danger. *King v. State*, (1968) 249 Ind. 699, 234 N.E. 2d 465, 468. The jury did not believe appellant's self-defense claim. The evidence and inferences therefrom would have permitted the jury to conclude that appellant did not act without fault, since she armed herself for possible trouble with the decedent. The jury could also have determined that, as brutal as decedent's beating was, appellant could not have perceived herself to be in danger of great bodily harm. We cannot weigh the evidence. There was evidence of probative value to support the jury's determination that appellant did not act in self-defense.

The jury's knowledge of appellant's genuine and reasonable fear of harm, and that she shot him in a violent struggle is relevant also to the issue of sentencing, which is considered in part III. We do not and cannot know whether the jury might have found appellant guilty only of manslaughter had the jurors been properly informed of the mandatory fifteen to twenty-five year sentence. The sentence helps to define the crime of second degree murder, and failure to let the jury know the sentence kept them from making a truly informed decision.

III.

In her motion to correct errors and on appeal, appellant objected to the court's forms of verdict and to its failure to furnish proper forms after she had timely notified it of the error. She also objected to the court's

denying her objections to its pronouncement of judgment and sentence based on the verdict.

At trial, after both sides had rested, the trial court gave the parties an opportunity to examine the court's instructions and to tender their own. One of the court's instructions defined the offense of second degree murder in the language of the statute and then set out the elements of the offense. The court's final instruction read, in relevant part:

"You will be provided with 3 forms of verdict. Only when all twelve of you have agreed upon your verdict, then will you select the form which reflects that verdict and your Foreman will sign it. When this is done, notify the bailiff and he will bring you into open court.

The forms of verdict which you will receive read as follows:

(HERE READ EACH FORM)"

The three jury verdict forms read:

"We, the Jury, find the defendant, Jenna Pauline Kelsie, guilty of the charge of Murder in the Second Degree."

"We, the Jury, find the defendant, Jenna Pauline Kelsie, not guilty of the charge of Murder in the Second Degree but guilty of the charge of Manslaughter."

"We, the Jury, find the defendant, Jenna Pauline Kelsie, not guilty."

After the jury had retired, appellant's counsel objected to the verdict forms:

"Let the record show the defendant, prior to the return of the jury of its verdict and while the jury is deliberating, the defendant's attorneys first having knowledge of the form of the verdicts submitted to the jury, now objects to the Court's verdicts for the jury to fix and to find whether or not the defendant is guilty of murder in the second degree. The defendant states and objects that the verdicts should be that the jury finds the defendant guilty of murder in the second degree and fixes the penalty at life imprisonment and there should be another verdict submitted to the jury that, we, the jury, find the defendant guilty of murder in the second degree and fix the penalty of imprisonment of not less than fifteen nor more than twenty-five years.

It is the defendant's position that the jury is to fix the penalty of the second degree murder charge and the defendant now requests the Court to submit to the jury verdicts fixing the penalty of life imprisonment and also a verdict for the jury to fix the penalty of not less than fifteen nor more than twenty-five years and withdraw the general verdict of guilty of second degree murder.

The defendant further objects to the Court giving, submitting the verdict of manslaughter and without stating in said verdict that the jury finds the defendant guilty of manslaughter and said defendant shall be imprisoned for not less than two nor more than twenty-one years. That said verdict should be specific and not a general verdict and the defendant further states she or her

attorneys were not extended a copy of the verdicts."

The court denied her objection and motion. Thereafter, the jury returned its verdict:

"We, the Jury, find the defendant, Jenna Pauline Kelsie, guilty of the charge of Murder in the Second Degree."

Appellant filed objections to the court's pronouncing judgment and sentence. The court heard argument, overruled appellant's objections, and sentenced her to fifteen to twenty-five years.

The majority opinion sets out the second degree murder statute, Ind. Code § 35-1-54-1, which provides for alternative sentences: life imprisonment, or not less than fifteen nor more than twenty-five years. The majority opinion also sets out the statutes, Ind. Code §35-8-2-1 through 3, which provide that the jury "must state, in the verdict . . . the punishment to be inflicted," when the jury finds the defendant guilty of murder. See *Brown v. State*, (1969) 252 Ind. 161, 247 N.E. 2d 76. The first statutes incorporating these provisions became law in 1897. *Miller v. State*, (1898) 149 Ind. 607, 49 N.E. 894.

In this case, neither the instructions nor the verdict forms informed the jurors of the punishment for second degree murder. Appellant objected while the jury was still deliberating, clearly before the jurors had been discharged.

As we recently stated *Kolb v. State*, (1972) 258 Ind. 469, 481, 282 N.E. 2d 541, 548, "the proper action for the judge would have been to send the incomplete verdict back to the jury for their completion," where the jury assessed no fine or punishment. Appellant asks that we set aside the verdict and grant her a new trial. On the basis of this case, I agree with appellant that the verdict is void and unenforceable for any purpose.

The law on this point is clear. In *Kolb*, appellant

was charged with two offenses. The jury returned verdicts of guilty for both offenses, but assessed no fine or punishment for one. Based on this verdict, the court pronounced judgment: "that the defendant is guilty of furnishing an alcoholic beverage to a minor, but that no punishment be assessed." On appeal, we noted the mandate of Ind. Code § 35-8-2-1 and reversed the judgment on the charge for which the jury had assessed no penalty. Accord: *Martin v. State*, (1958) 239 Ind. 174, 154 N.E. 2d 714.

In *Crooks v. State*, (1971) 256 Ind. 72, 267 N.E. 2d 52, the jury returned a verdict describing one offense and a sentence greater than the statute for that offense permitted. "Such a verdict in Indiana is void." It is "not enforceable against the appellant and the trial court erred in rendering judgment on the verdict." Accord: *Crotty v. State*, (1968) 250 Ind. 312, 236 N.E. 2d 47; *Gaughan v. State*, (1918) 187 Ind. 334, 118 N.E. 565.

In *West v. State*, (1950) 228 Ind. 431, 440, 92 N.E. 2d 852, 856, the verdict was void for two reasons. It did not provide for a fine, and it fixed the period of imprisonment at double the statutory maximum. "In such a situation the court cannot correct, modify or amend the verdict by adding a fine or reducing the time of imprisonment to bring it within the penalty provided by law." We reversed and granted a new trial.

In *Limeberry v. State*, (1945) 223 Ind. 622, 63 N.E. 2d, 697, the statute provided for a fine of not more than one thousand dollars "to which may be added imprisonment in the county jail not exceeding six months." The verdict provided for a fine of one dollar "and 6 months suspended sentence." We found these words surplusage, as the verdict was complete without them, and found that the court erred in trying to correct the sentence to six months on the Indiana State Farm.

"The court could not pass judgment of imprisonment on this verdict without ignoring the expressed intent of the jury. It was the

duty of the court, of its own motion on observing the defect, to order the jury to retire and correct it. The duty of the jury was not completed until this was done. What the jury might have done had it been ordered to retire and correct its verdict is unknown but its rights and duties under such circumstances are well expressed as follows:

'After a jury has been directed to return to the jury-room and amend or correct the verdict, it has the power and right to change the whole verdict, and bring in an entirely different verdict.'

2 *Watson's Works Practice* 447 § 1875; *Rush v. Pedigo* (1878), 63 Ind. 479, 485.

The jury would have had a right to render a new verdict giving a time sentence of six months or for any lesser period, or it could have omitted the time sentence entirely. The defendant had a right to have the jury, not the court, pass on this important matter. Since the jury was discharged by the court, without first having fully performed its duty, it can not now be reassembled. Since the verdict is valid so far as the fine is concerned, the judgment rendered thereon is likewise valid. Since that part of the verdict concerning a time sentence is so ambiguous, that it is void, that part of the judgment fixing a time sentence is without foundation and is erroneous. *Hunnicutt v. Frauhigher* (1927), 199 Ind. 501, 158 N.E. 572." (Emphasis added.) 223 Ind. at 627-28.

We instructed the court below to revoke the sentence to

the farm.

To the contrary is *Palmer v. State*, (1926) 198 Ind. 73, 152 N.E. 607. The jury assessed no punishment in a case where the statute provided for a sentence of "any determinate period not less than ten years nor more than twenty-five years." The trial court sentenced the defendant to ten years, and we affirmed, finding no harm to appellant. See also, *Lane v. Hobbs*, (1965) 246 Ind. 640, 651, 208 N.E. 2d 182 (dissenting opinion at 246 Ind. 654-55), *cert. denied*, 383 U.S. 967 (1966).

Those who would contend that this judgment should be affirmed because appellant has not been harmed thereby ignore the clear policy of the Legislature that the jury, not the judge, shall fix the punishment upon the verdict of guilty. Appellant had the right to have the jury determine the punishment. If we were to hold that, since the judge assessed the minimum statutory sentence, the error was harmless, we would thwart the intent of the statute and encourage judicial non-conformance with the legislative standards. Furthermore, it is not clear that appellant was not prejudiced. Had the court properly required the jury to retire again to determine the punishment, the jury could have returned a sentence of life imprisonment or could have returned an entirely different verdict. *Limeberry v. State*, *supra*, at 628. We do not know what this jury would have decided was the correct verdict, including the punishment. Therefore, we cannot determine that appellant was not prejudiced by the failure to have the jury know or set the punishment.

For failure of the jury to assess the punishment, as required by statute, I vote to reverse and grant appellant's motion for a new trial.

APPENDIX B

**Ruling of the Indiana Supreme Court
on Petition for Rehearing**

IN THE

SUPREME COURT OF INDIANA

JENNA PAULINE KELSIE,)	
)	
Appellant,)	
)	
v.)	No. 1274 S 241
)	
STATE OF INDIANA,)	
)	
Appellee.)	

**Appellant's Petition for Rehearing DENIED. Givan,
C.J. DeBruler, J. Votes to grant.**

**Appellants Petition for Oral Argument on Petition
for Rehearing DENIED. Givan, C.J.**

November 1, 1976.

Supreme Court, U. S.

FILED

JAN 7 1977

MICHAEL ROJAK, JR., CLERK

IN THE
Supreme Court of the United States
OCTOBER TERM, 1976

No. 76-780

JENNA PAULINE KELSIE,
Petitioner,

v.

STATE OF INDIANA,
Respondent.

**BRIEF IN OPPOSITION TO PETITION FOR
WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE SUPREME
COURT OF INDIANA**

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Respondent, State of Indiana, respectfully prays this Court deny issuance of a writ of certiorari to the Supreme Court of Indiana, thereby refusing to review the decision entered by that Court in Cause No. 1274 S 241 on September 21, 1976.

OPINION BELOW

The opinion of the Indiana Supreme Court is reported at 345 N.E. 2d 219, and may be found in Petitioner's Appendix A. Petitioner's petition for rehearing in that Court was denied without opinion on November 1, 1976. See Petitioner's Appendix B.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE

Petitioner was charged by way of indictment for the crime of Second Degree Murder. Pursuant to the opinion of the Indiana Supreme Court, Attorney Robert W. Lensing entered an appearance in the capacity of "of counsel" at the request of the prosecuting attorney, and subsequently participated with and under the supervision of the appropriate county prosecuting attorney who was present at all stages of the proceedings. Petitioner's Appendix A, Page 7. Petitioner herein objected to the participation of the attorney. It is from the overruling of Petitioner's objection to the participation by said attorney that Petitioner now asserts a denial of due process of law as guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

REASONS FOR DISALLOWANCE OF THE WRIT

I.

NO ERROR WAS COMMITTED BY THE PARTICIPATION OF THE OBJECTED TO ATTORNEY.

Petitioner herein argues that she was denied due process of law by the trial court overruling her objection to the participation in her trial of an attorney who was not a duly elected prosecuting attorney. In so arguing, the Petitioner states that she now, "... challenges the action of the 'special prosecutor' who took the lead in securing her conviction." Petitioner's brief, page 11. The Indiana Supreme Court specifically found from the record that the duly elected prosecuting attorney requested that the attorney be permitted to appear for the State, and that the trial court appointed him for that purpose. Further,

the Indiana Supreme Court specifically found that the objected to attorney worked with and under the supervision of the Warrick County prosecutor, who was present at all stages of the proceedings. Opinion of the Supreme Court of Indiana, Petitioner's Appendix A, page 7.

The law in Indiana has been well settled by the Indiana Supreme Court that independent of statute, trial courts have long exercised discretionary power to appoint attorneys to assist the prosecuting attorney in criminal cases. *State ex rel. Neeriemer v. Davies Circuit Court of Davies County*, (1957) 236 Ind. 624, 142 N.E. 2d 626; *Tull v. State ex rel. Glessner*, (1884) 99 Ind. 238; *Williams v. State*, (1919) 188 Ind. 283, 123 N.E. 209.

Where it is clear, as it is here, that the highest state court having jurisdiction to hear the federal question presented, and that where the decision of the State court might finally determine the issue on a state ground and not on a federal ground, this Court should not undertake to review it. However, if the independent state ground is not a sufficient or substantial one, it should be presumed that the State court based its decision on the federal question. *Durley v. Mayo*, 351 U.S. 277, 76 S. Ct. 806. There can be no doubt that the Indiana Supreme Court based its decision upon a dispositive state ground, substantially, and sufficiently. No federal question is even recognized as existing in the opinion of the Indiana Supreme Court. Therefore, in that the question raised in Petitioner's Petition for Writ of Certiorari has been adequately answered on state grounds under interpretation of state law, her petition should not be allowed.

CONCLUSION

WHEREFORE, Respondent respectfully submits that petitioner's alleged issue has been adequately disposed of pursuant to state grounds, and that her Petition for Writ of Certiorari should be disallowed.

Respectfully submitted,

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